

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 59-74 from the application without prejudice.

1-46 (Cancelled)

47. (currently amended) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point to form a liquefied embedding medium; and

applying an ~~non-organicimmiscible~~ liquid to the biological sample to separate the liquefied embedding medium from the biological sample[, wherein said ~~non-organicimmiscible~~ liquid has a density greater than that of the liquefied embedding medium].

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the ~~non-organicimmiscible~~ liquid comprises water.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the ~~non-organicimmiscible~~ liquid comprises a detergent.

50. (previously added) The method of claim 49, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

51. (currently amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of Triton X-100 ~~octylphenoxypolyethoxy (5) ethanol~~, Tweenpolyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan, Brijpolyoxyethelene(23) ~~dodecyl ether~~, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.

52. (previously added) The method of claim 47 wherein the embedding medium comprises

paraffin wax.

53. (currently amended) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

applying an ~~non-organicimmiscible~~ liquid to a biological sample; and

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the ~~non-organicimmiscible~~ liquid comprises water.

55. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the ~~non-organicimmiscible~~ liquid comprises a detergent.

56. (previously added) The method of claim 55, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

57. (currently amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of ~~Friton-X-100~~octylphenoxypolycethoxy (5) ethanol, Tweenpolyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan, Brijpolyoxyethelene(23) dodecyl ether, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.

58. (previously added) The method of claim 53, wherein the embedding medium is paraffin wax.

59-74. (withdrawn)

75. (new claim) The method as claimed in claim 47 wherein said immiscible liquid has a density different than that of the liquefied embedding medium.

76. (new claim) The method as claimed in claim 53 wherein said immiscible liquid has a density different than that of the liquefied embedding medium.